## structions, sear (%) existing data sour orden estimates any other aspect of on Denations and (%) ofts, 1215 Jeffer (83), washington, 20, 21503 Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response including the time for reviewing insignatering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this or collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services. Directorate for information Davis Highway, Suite 1204. Arlington, viA. 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3704-0). 3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED 2. REPORT DATE 1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank) Sept. 94 them 14 Oct. 90 ANNUA 5. FUNDING NUMBERS 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE THE USE OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY AND ELLIPSOMETRY FOR F49620-94-C-0042 IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING CORROSION ON AIRCRAFT 65502F 6. AUTHOR(S) 3005/SS Dr Chester M. Dacres 8. PERFORMING DRGANIZATION 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) REPORT NUMBER DACCO SCT, Inc. 10260 Old Columbia Road AFOSR-TR- 94 Columbia MD 21046 10. SPONSORING MONITORING 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AGENCY REPORT NUMBER AFOSR/NL 110 Duncan Ave Suite B115 Bolling AFB DC 20332-0001 Maj Thomas E. Erstfeld 11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

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14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES
		· · · · ·	16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT (U)	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (U)	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT (U)	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRA
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## **MONTHLY REPORT - October, 1994**

Contract No. F49620-94-C-0042,DEF
"The use of Electrochemistry and Ellipsometry for Identifying and Evaluating Corrosion on Aircraft"

Electrochemical corrosion testing using AC Impedance measurements, ellipsometry and X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) is progressing according to the Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM) submitted in July, 1994. The development of the corrosion sensor is on schedule and the data from the feasibility study show that the signature from a corroding aircraft is repeatable.

Initial fabrication of the test electrodes was met with little success. The first template designed incorporated the use of an aluminum screen through which the paint was to be applied. Due to the consistency of the conductive paints, much of the paint adhered to the screen and not to the coating. This technique was abandoned for a more practical approach using adhesive tape to lay the pattern of the grid. This technique proved to be simpler in design and proved to be a better technique in applying the paint.

Silver paint was added to the scope of testing to provide another low cost alternative to the gold paint since there was concern that the carbon paint might not give accurate results due its low electrical conductivity.

It was found that the conductivity of the gold paint increases with cure temperature as supported by the specification sheet sent with the paint. However, there was concern that elevated cure temperatures might adversely alter the integrity of the coating. Therefore the lowest possible recommended cure temperature of 50° C was chosen for all the paints.

Each coupon is comprised of two wires, a painted electrode grid, and the coated sample. One wire is bonded to the metal on the backside of the coupon and acts as the working electrode. The second wire is bonded to the painted grid and acts as the reference and counter electrode. This two-electrode approach is ideally suited for in-situ real time analysis of a metal/coating system. The electrodes have thus far been tested using the AC Impedance technique with success.

A detailed report dated October, 1994 was presented to the Program Manager with the data obtained to date.

A presentation has been prepared for delivery at the Poster Session, Sunday, October 23, at the National Academy of Sciences.

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■ DACCO SCI. INC. ■ 10260 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046-